

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 COME-00 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00

EB-11 FMC-04 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CG-00 COA-02 SCI-06

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3147

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: IMCO, ETRN

SUBJECT: IMCO: MSC AGENDA

REF: STATE 152407

1. THERE IS NO PROVISION IN MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR CORRIGENDUM TO PROVISIONAL AGENDA SUCH AS SUGGESTED REFTEL. PRESUMABLY TYPOGRAPHICAL OR FACTUAL ERRORS THAT MIGHT CREEP INTO PROVISIONAL AGENDA COULD BE RECTIFIED BY A CORRECTION SHEET DISTRIBUTED AFTER PROVISIONAL AGENDA WAS COMMUNICATED TO MEMBERS, BUT NORMALLY THESE CHANGES ARE NOTIFIED TO PARTICIPANTS IN MEETING WHEN ITEM 1, ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA, IS UNDER DISCUSSION. SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES AND SUGGESTIONS TO REARRANGE ITEMS ARE USUALLY PROPOSED AT SAME TIME BY INTERESTED MEMBERS. RULE 10 OF MSC TOR PROVIDES FOR TWO-MONTH LEAD-TIME FOR DISTRIBUTION OF PROVISIONAL AGENDA, AND AGENDA UNDER CONSIDERATION MET DEADLINE SINCE IT WAS SENT OUT ON JULY 2 FOR SEPTEMBER 17 MEETING.

2. PROVISIONAL AGENDA IS PREPARED BY SYG AND APPROVED BY MSC CHAIRMAN, IN THIS CASE PER ERIKSSON WHO IS A SWEDISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL RESIDENT IN STOCKHOLM. PROCESSING A CHANGE, EVEN IF PROCEDURALLY POSSIBLE, COULD

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MEET WITH ADMINISTRATIVE DELAYS AND AMENDED AGENDA MAY

NOT REACH CAPITALS SUFFICIENTLY AHEAD OF MEETING TO ALLOW PROSPECTIVE PARTICIPANTS MUCH IF ANY TIME TO FOCUS ON PROBLEM. DELEGATIONS COULD WELL BE SUSPICIOUS OF CHANGE UNLESS IT WERE EXPLAINED IN DETAIL, AND EVEN THEN MIGHT REACT NEGATIVELY SINCE MOST PARTICIPANTS IN MEETING WILL BE MSC-ORIENTED WITH LATENT HOSTILITY TO PROPOSED MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION COMMITTEE.

3. WHEN WE DISCUSSED MATTER WITH SYG GOAD HE ALSO EXPRESSED APPREHENSION OVER POSSIBILITY THAT MSC AGENDA

ITEM 5(A) AS PRESENTLY WORDED WOULD OPEN POSSIBILITY OF DEBATE OVER WHOLE OF MEPC REPORT (COPIES REPORT POUCHED BANK, BENKERT AND GRIP). SYG, TOO, INTENDS THAT DISCUSSION SHOULD BE CONFINED TO REPORT PARA 14 OR AT MOST TO PARAS 14 AND 15 IN SECTION ON PAGE 5 HEADED "ARRANGEMENTS FOR COORDINATION." ASSUMING PROCEDURAL POSSIBILITY OF ISSUING CORRIGENDUM, GOAD SHARED FEELING THAT IF EFFORT MADE TO AMEND MSC AGENDA IT MIGHT HAVE CONTRARY EFFECT OF INDUCING PARTICIPANTS TO LAUNCH WIDER DISCUSSION OF MEPC. HE SUGGESTED THAT SECRETARIAT NOTE BE FOCUSED SHARPLY ON ISSUE AND IN OUR PRESENCE TELEPHONED SASAMURA AND INSTRUCTED HIM TO DRAFT NOTE WITH THIS IN MIND. GOAD WILL INTRODUCE NOTE IN SUCH A WAY AS TO GUIDE DISCUSSION INTO NARROWEST CHANNEL. FURTHER, BRIEFING FOR CHAIRMAN ERIKSSON WILL BE PREPARED ALONG SIMILAR LINES. ERIKSSON CAN BE EXPECTED TO APPRECIATE PROBLEM AND KEEP DEBATE CONFINED TO ESSENTIALS.

4. COMMENT: IMCO RUMOR MILL HAS IT THAT SWEDEN, HAVING HAD SMALLEST NUMBER OF VOTES FOR ELECTION TO MSC FOUR YEARS AGO, WILL NOT SUCCEED IN SECURING REELECTION IN NOVEMBER ASSEMBLY. IF SWEDEN DROPS OUT OF MSC, ERIKSSON WILL LOSE POSITION AS MSC CHAIRMAN. HE IS SAID TO BE VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN POSSIBILITY OF ELECTION AS MEPC CHAIRMAN AS AN END IN ITSELF, AND PARTICULARLY IF HE IS FORCED TO GIVE UP MSC CHAIRMANSHIP. REASONING IS THAT HE WILL BE QUITE CIRCUMSPECT IN GUIDING DEBATE ON MEPC REPORT SO AS NOT TO INJURE PROSPECTS OF NEW COMMITTEE THAT HE ASPIRES TO HEAD. IN SUMMARY, WE BELIEVE (A) LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CHANCES OF AMENDING MSC AGENDA TO REFLECT OUR CONCERN ARE NIL, AND (B) SATISFACTORY OUTCOME WILL BE VIRTUALLY ASSURED WITH SCENARIO TO BE ARRANGED BY SYG, AS DESCRIBED ABOVE. TO MAKE THIS ASSURANCE DOUBLY SURE, US PARTICIPANTS SHOULD DO SOME ADVANCE MISSIONARY WORK AND IN THE MEETING EXERCISE THE VIGILANCE THAT IS USUAL WITH THE USDEL WHEN IMPORTANT ISSUES ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION.

SOHM

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